

## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ALASKA WITH BRIEF OUTLINE OF RESOURCES.

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### Discovery.

What is now the Territory of Alaska was, until 1867, a part of the Russian Empire and was known as Russian America. The name Alaska is derived from the Aleut word, Alakshak, meaning "a great country or continent." Credit for the discovery of the Alaska coast is given to Michail Gvozdef, "geodesist," or surveyor, who assumed command of an expedition originally headed by Ivan Gedorof and designed to secure information concerning the "great land" to the east of Siberia whose existence was reported by the Chukchi, natives inhabiting northeastern Siberia. Gvozdef is presumed to have touched the coast of Alaska near Cape Prince of Wales some time during the year 1730. Information on this point is very meager and the results of slight importance.

Prior to this time, in 1728, Vitus Bering, a Danish Captain in the Russian Service, who was commander of what was known from its starting point as the first Kamchatka expedition, had discovered and named St. Lawrence Island and had sailed through Bering Strait, rounded East Cape, and proceeded westward far enough to establish the fact that the land reported as lying east of Siberia was not a part of the continent of Asia.

The results of the first Kamchatka expedition fired the Russians with a desire to know more about the great land to the eastward and, if possible, to discover trade routes to America. Accordingly the second Kamchatka expedition was organized. Two men figure prominently in this expedition, namely, Bering, who commanded the expedition, and Alexei Chirikof, second in command. The two vessels used in this expedition, the St. Peter and the St. Paul, were in charge of Bering and Chirikof respectively. The plan called for the two vessels to proceed together. However, they became separated some days after setting out from Avatcha Bay, the starting point of the expedition and, thereafter, the two commanders proceeded independently.

On July 16, 1741, Bering sighted and named Mt. St. Elias and a few days later made a landing at Kayak Island, near Controller Bay. Chirikof sighted the Alaska coast, probably at Prince of Wales Island, on July 15, 1741. Bering remained but a few days in the region of Prince William Sound and then sailed west-

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ward along the southern coast touching at several points. He fell ill of scurvy, which disease had attacked the ship's crew. On November 5th, his vessel was wrecked on an island later called Bering Island. Here Bering died, on December 8, 1741. Those who survived were successful in constructing another vessel from the wreck and returned to Kamchatka the following fall.

Chirikof's crew also suffered greatly from scurvy and other diseases. His homeward journey was beset with many difficulties, including the massacre of two boat loads of men by the savage inhabitants of the country. On the return voyage he sighted many of the Aleutian Islands. He reached Avatcha Bay, Kamchatka, the point of the departure of the expedition, early in October, 1741, after a voyage which lasted approximately five months.

In May, 1742, Chirikof made another attempt to explore the Alaska coast but, because of unfavorable winds, turned back after sighting the islands at the extreme western end of the Aleutian chain. It was principally on the voyages of Bering and Chirikof that Russia based her claim to the ownership of northwestern America.

#### Further Russian Exploration.

Without doubt the otter and other fur-bearing animals had much to do with the further exploration and colonization of Alaska. The discovery expedition brought back glowing tales of the wealth in furs that abounded in the new land and the next half century witnessed a number of expeditions which were confined mainly to the Aleutian Islands and the Alaska Peninsula and which had as their object the acquisition of wealth. In speaking of the part which furs played in the exploration and settlement of Alaska, Bancroft (*History of Alaska*, 1885) makes the following statement: "Call it science or patriotism, or progress, there is this to be said about the First Russian discoveries in America—little would have been heard of them for some time to come, if ever, had it not been for the beautiful furs brought back from Bering Island and elsewhere. Siberia was still sufficient to satisfy the tsar for purposes of expatriation, and the Russians were not such zealots as to undertake conquest for the sake of conversion, and to make religion a cloak for their atrocities; hence, but for these costly skins, each of which proclaimed in loudest strains the glories of Alaska, the Great Land might long have rested, undisturbed."

During at least the first twenty years after Bering's discovery of Alaska the fur hunters treated the native inhabitants of the country with extreme cruelty and the history of this period is marked by one outrage after another. Investigations of reported mistreatment of the natives revealed such gross inhumanity as to cause the Siberian authorities to suspend free traffic in America

and resort to the system of the formation of privileged companies who derived their authority from imperial ukase. This system relieved the situation to a small extent only. However the treatment which had been accorded the natives resulted in numerous reprisals on their part, and much shedding of Russian and Indian blood marked Russia's early contact with Alaska.

In the list of early explorers, a number of names stand out prominently. Grigor Ivanovich Shelikof, after whom Shelikof Strait was named, explored the Aleutian Islands, Kodiak Island, the Alaska Peninsula, Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound during the years 1783-86.

Alexander Baranof was the first of the explorers and traders to visit southeastern Alaska. His voyage was made in 1799. Baranof Island bears his name.

Otto von Kotzebue commanded an expedition which had as its object the discovery of the northeast passage to Europe. The expedition sailed from Petropavlovsk, Siberia, in the summer of 1816 and proceeded through Bering Strait, thence eastward until the shallows made further progress impossible, altho open water yet appeared to the eastward. Kotzebue Sound, the body of water which was navigated, bears the name of the leader of this expedition.

In 1822, Etholen and Vassilaief made a detailed survey of Bristol Bay, westward to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River. Norton Sound also was explored along its eastern and northern shore, the deep indentation on the north shore being named Golovnin Bay.

In 1833, a creole, (person with Russian father and Aleut mother) by the name of Andrei Glazanof, conducted an overland expedition from Norton Sound to the Anvik River, thence down it to the Yukon River where some time was spent in exploration. The expedition finally proceeded down the Yukon to its mouth. Glazanof subsequently explored much of the delta region of the Yukon which was at that time densely populated. He also crossed the portage to the Kuskokwim River. From this point he attempted to cross to Cook Inlet but shaped his course too far to the north and was forced to return to the Kuskokwim, thence to the Yukon, from which point he proceeded to the Russian post at Mikhaielovsk, on Norton Sound.

#### **Early Settlements.**

The first permanent settlement of the Russians was established at Three Saints Bay, Kodiak Island, in 1783. This settlement was made by Grigor Ivanovich Shelikof, who is credited also with having opened the first school in Alaska at this place in 1785. A second permanent settlement was established in 1786 in Cook Inlet at the mouth of the Kasilof River near the present

site of Kenai, by Kolomin. Both Shelikof and Kolomin were at the head of trading companies.

The early settlements in Alaska, however, center around Alexander Baranof to a greater extent than perhaps any other individual. At first an independent trader, then agent for the Shelikof Company and later the originator, and for nineteen years manager, of the Russian American Company, which exercised practically absolute dominion over Alaska for 67 years, or from the time of its creation and charter in 1799, to 1866, the year preceding the transfer of Alaska to the United States. He introduced the first missionaries into Alaska and established a colony at Yakutat. It was under his direction that the first vessel built in north-western America was ed Sitka, which was headquarters for Russian activities in Alaska for the greater part of the period of Russian occupation. He was re-completed and launched on a successful voyage from Cook Inlet to Kodiak Island. He visited Alexander Archipelago in 1799 and found placed as manager of the Russian American Company in 1818 under circumstances which showed small appreciation for the services rendered.

Bancroft, in his "History of Alaska," pays this tribute to Baranof: "To him was due, more than to all others, the success of the Russian colonies in America; by him they had been founded and fostered, and but for him they would never have been established, or would have had, at best, a brief and troubled existence. Here, amid these wintry solitudes, he had raised towns and villages, built a fleet of sea-going ships, and laid a basis of trade with American and Asiatic ports. All this he had accomplished while paying regular dividends to shareholders; and now in his old age he was cast adrift and called to render an account as an unfaithful steward."

Since the early history of Alaska centers about Sitka, the most important Russian settlement, it would be well for teachers to secure a copy of "The Story of Sitka," by C. L. Andrews, P. O. Box 1888, Seattle, Washington, for use as a source of interesting bits of information regarding the Russian occupancy of Alaska.

#### English Exploration.

Captain James Cook, a noted English navigator, who had conducted extensive explorations in South America, sailed up the western coast of North America in 1778, making his first discovery of the Alaska coast near the present site of Sitka. He then sailed north-westward, naming Cross Sound, Cape Fairweather and Controller Bay and landing at Kayak Island. From this point he sailed to Nuchek Bay—Port Etches on present day maps. He named Cape Hinchinbrook, also Montague Island, the largest island in Prince William Sound, the name applied to the whole inlet. He then rounded and named Cape Elizabeth and entered the inlet which bears

his name and which he explored with the idea that a northeast passage to Europe lay in this direction. Thence he cruised along the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands, touching at Unalaska and Dutch Harbor. He then entered Bering Sea and continued northward through Bristol Bay, Norton Sound, and Bering Strait. Enroute he entered the mouth of the Kuskokwim River, discovered and named Sledge Island, near Nome, and King Island, lying directly south of Bering Strait. On entering the Arctic Ocean he encountered heavy ice floes which forced him to keep a westerly course until he reached the Siberian coast at a promontory which he named Cape North. On the return voyage he stopped at the Hawaiian Islands, where he was killed in an encounter with the natives. Cook mapped and charted the coastal region of Alaska from 58° to 70° north and added much to the world's knowledge of this unexplored section of the North American continent. Many of his charts and maps stood the test of much more extended and scientific later investigations.

The explorations of Cook north and west of 60° were considered accurate but needed verification south of this point. There were also those who believed that a navigable passage might be discovered connecting the North Pacific with the Atlantic Ocean in latitudes south of Bering Strait. This double mission was assigned to George Vancouver, who sailed from England in 1791. Considerable exploration work was performed south of the Alaska coast and it was not until 1793 that the expedition reached Portland Canal. Vancouver navigated Behm Canal, Clarence Strait, and other waters to the mouth of the Stikeen River. Winter was now approaching and he repaired to the Hawaiian Islands to enter winter quarters. Early the following spring, he set sail northward to Cook Inlet which he navigated to its head. Thence he rounded Cape Elizabeth enroute to Prince William Sound, where he anchored in a harbor on the coast of Montague Island. Boats were sent out to survey the Sound and the coast as far eastward as Yakutat Bay. Anchor was then weighed and the expedition sailed eastward to Chichagof Island. From here a boat explored Lynn Canal and a part of Chatham Strait. Vancouver then proceeded southward through the archipelago to the Stikeen River, the point where observations had ceased the preceding fall. From this point he returned to England, having satisfied himself that no navigable passage connected the North Pacific with the Atlantic Ocean, and having made certain corrections in and additions to the work begun by Cook.

These explorations by Cook and Vancouver formed the basis of England's claim to northwestern North America.

#### Spanish Explorations.

Several years before the voyage of Captain Cook, Spain had made some minor explorations particularly in the Alexander Archipelago, with the intention of contesting Russia's supremacy. An

expedition, commanded by Juan Perez, sailed from San Blas, Mexico, in January, 1774. Perez touched the Alaska coast at the southern extremity of Prince of Wales Island only.

A second expedition, of two vessels, was launched in 1775. The vessel commanded by Lieutenant Juan Francisco de Bodega y Cuadra was the only one which made discoveries within the present boundaries of Alaska, the other, under command of Lieutenant Bruno Hecata, confining its operations to the region to the South. Cuadra sighted land first at Mount Edgecumbe which he named Mount San Jacinto. The original nomenclature was not retained due to Spain's neglect in not publishing the achievements of her explorers. Several points along the western shore of Alexander Archipelago were visited and solemnly taken possession of in the name of Spain.

In 1799, another expedition under the command of Lieutenant Ignacio Areteaga, with Cuadra second in command, set out from San Blas to continue and complete the explorations of Cuadra. The first stop took place at Bucareli Sound on the west coast of Prince of Wales Island, which had previously been visited by Cuadra. A complete survey of this harbor was made. Thence, the expedition sailed in a north-westerly direction, sighting Mt. St. Elias and later Kayak Island. The vessels anchored in Nuchek Bay, Hinchinbrook Island, from which point minor surveys were made and the country taken possession of in the name of Spain. (This was the third time this particular region had been located and claimed by rival nations within the course of a year. Cook explored and took possession of the place in 1778, and a party of Russians from Cook Inlet under Zaikof laid claim to it in June, 1799, basing their rights on that of discovery and exploration.) From this point the expedition sailed to the southern end of Kenai Peninsula, formally took possession of the region, and then returned to Mexico.

In 1788, two vessels in command of Estevan Martiney and Gonzales Haro, were launched on another northern expedition. Prince William Sound was again visited. Haro visited the Russian settlement on Kodiak Island. From this point he proceeded to Unalaska and took possession of the island in the name of Spain.

Alejandro Malaspina, an Italian navigator in the service of Spain, was dispatched to discover a north east passage to Europe, in 1791. He sighted land at Cape Edgecumbe and proceeded north to Yakutat Bay, which he entered. Malaspina glacier was named by him. The expedition then sailed westward past Kayak Island and entered Prince William Sound, from which point he returned, via Cross Sound, to the starting point of the expedition, Nootka Sound, Vancouver Island. The previous year, 1790, Salvador Fidalgo had visited Prince William Sound and explored and named Port Fidalgo and Port Valdez.

### French Exploration.

The explorations conducted by the French government were much less extensive than those of the British and Spanish. An expedition under command of La Perouse set sail from Brest in August, 1785. On June 23, 1786, the coast of Alaska was sighted in the region of Mt. St. Elias. La Perouse had definite instructions to visit and explore the Aleutian Islands, however, he took a south-easterly course from St. Elias and entered Lituya Bay, which was explored with the idea that perhaps this stretch of water was the much sought passage to the Hudson Bay region. After an extended stay in this port, La Perouse sailed southward. He attempted to enter Dixon Entrance but was forced to abandon the project on account of unfavorable weather. As a result of his somewhat superficial investigations, he concluded that the entire coast from Cross Sound to the southern extremity of the Queen Charlotte Islands was one archipelago.

### United States Explorations

Prior to the purchase of Alaska by the United States, little interest was taken in the territory and few American vessels navigated its waters. The American whaler, *Superior*, Captain Roys, commander, was the first commercial vessel to pass through Bering Strait. The favorable results of this trip influenced other American whalers to venture into the Arctic and a thriving industry sprung up during the period immediately preceding the Civil War.

In 1856, Lieutenant William Gibson, U. S. N., commanding the schooner, "Fennimore Cooper," made surveys along the Aleutian Islands. He was connected with the Rodgers United States Northern Pacific Exploring Expedition in the capacity of commander of the expedition. Some of the vessels of this fleet reached the Arctic Ocean.

After the purchase of Alaska a number of American expeditions were launched. Soon after the purchase, the Coast and Geodetic Survey began the work of charting the coast line, which work is still in progress. Other government vessels such as those of the Revenue Marine Service, and Navy have contributed much to knowledge of the coastal region and waterways of Alaska.

The Alaska Commercial Company, an American corporation doing business in Alaska, was formed in 1869. In 1870 this company leased the Pribilof Islands from the government for a period of twenty years. The company also established trading posts, principally on the Aleutian Islands, Kodiak Island, Kenai Peninsula and the Yukon River. The activities of this corporation resulted in increased knowledge of the American northland.

In 1869, the first river steamboat ascended the Yukon. During the same year Captain C. W. Raymond, U. S. A., lead an expedition up the Yukon River for the purpose of determining its source

and to learn something about the activities of the British in that region. In addition to gathering much valuable data pertaining to the native population and the resources of the country, Raymond surveyed the lower Yukon River.

John Muir, the great naturalist and explorer, accompanied by Rev. S. Hall Young, explored parts of Southeastern Alaska in 1879. They discovered Muir Glacier and explored Glacier Bay.

Ivan Petrof, an agent of the Tenth Census, 1880, made a notable contribution to the knowledge of the geography and resources of Alaska. He spent two years in travel along the coast and on the lower Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. He made a map of Alaska which was fairly accurate and which set forth the general features of the country, including mountain ranges, rivers, etc. Petrof, who had long been a resident of the territory and who was familiar with both the Russian and native languages, was in an especially fortunate position to secure accurate information.

In 1880 the first of the early prospectors followed the Indian trail over Chilkoot Pass and reached the Lewes and Yukon Rivers. Gold was reported on the Yukon as early as 1867, the time of the Western Union Telegraph survey. Gold was also discovered on Seward Peninsula, near Norton Sound, by Libby, a member of a party sent there to install a section of the telegraph line.

In 1883, Lieutenant Frederick Schwatka, accompanied by a topographer, C. W. Hoffman, and four others, crossed the coastal mountains and constructed a raft on Lake Bennett, which they named. From this point they proceeded by a route known as Indian portage to the Lewes River, thence to the Yukon, which they navigated to its mouth.

Perhaps the most remarkable of exploration journeys in all the history of Alaska was made by Lieutenant Henry T. Allen. In March, 1885, he landed at the mouth of the Copper River with four companions and traversed the stream for a distance of three hundred miles with poling boats and dog sleds. He then crossed over the divide to the head waters of the Tanana River and followed its course to its junction with the Yukon River. Throughout the entire journey the party subsisted on the country. On reaching the Yukon, Allen rested for a time and then, with one companion, crossed to the Koyukuk River and explored it from above the Arctic Circle to its junction with the Yukon. From the lower Yukon he crossed to Norton Sound, via the portage, and followed its southern border to the mouth of the Yukon, from which point he returned to the United States. He mapped the three rivers which he had traversed and made other valuable observations.

It is not possible to recount in detail other explorations made by Americans within the limits of this brief sketch. Mention may be made of the exploration of Kotzebue Sound and the delta region of the Kobuk River and the discovery of the Noatak and Selawik

Rivers by Lieutenant George E. Storey, of the revenue cutter "Corwin"; the De Long expedition, which sailed from San Francisco in 1870 to search for the North Pole; the journey of Ensign W. L. Howard up the valley of the Noatak River, across the divide to the valley of the Colville River, across another divide and down the Chipp River to the Arctic Coast, thence along the coast to Point Barrow; the information collected and distributed by numerous prospectors and individuals; and last and most important of all the work of the U. S. Geological Survey, which was begun in a systematic manner in 1898 and continues to the present time. Dr. Alfred H. Brooks was placed in charge of this work. The first year's explorations were conducted on the Kuskokwim, Susitna, Tanana, Matanuska and Copper Rivers. Since that time approximately 200,000 square miles of territory have been investigated and mapped. Many of the coal measures of Alaska have been surveyed and a whole library of scientific data pertaining to geology and topography have been printed. So efficient has been the work of the U. S. Geological Survey and its chief, Dr. Alfred H. Brooks, that it has often been remarked that there are but two who know the truth about Alaska's resources, namely Providence and Dr. Brooks.

#### The Purchase of Alaska by The United States.

As early as 1854, during the Crimean War, the Emperor of Russia, fearing that the English would seize Russian America, offered to sell the territory to the United States. The offer was declined. During President Buchanan's administration negotiations for purchase were opened but called off by Russia after an offer of \$5,000,000 had been made. Credit for the final purchase is given to William H. Seward, Secretary of State under President Johnson, who was ably supported by Charles Sumner, General Banks, and others.

The treaty of purchase was signed by Baron Stoeckl, for Russia, and Secretary Seward, for the United States, at 4 a. m. on March 30, 1867, and sent to the Senate for ratification on the same day. The measure was confirmed, after much debate and considerable opposition, on April 10th. The confirmation was secured largely as the result of a masterly address by Senator Charles Sumner in which he summarized all that was known regarding the territory. Articles were exchanged and the treaty proclaimed by President Johnson on June 20, 1867.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining the necessary appropriation to consummate the purchase, \$7,200,000, two cents per acre. The appropriation bill, however, was passed on July 14th. A controversy over which country was to meet the cable expenses incident to the purchase then arose. Russia refused to pay her share and the bill finally was settled by the United

States after the cable company had reduced the amount. The foolishness of the quibble over purchase appropriations and expenses is apparent at the present time (1922) when the total exports from Alaska since its purchase by the United States have reached a total of approximately a billion and one-quarter dollars.

Some idea of the general ignorance of Alaska exhibited by the United States is gained from the terms applied to the territory at the time when its purchase was being considered. "Walrussia," "American Siberia," "Zero Islands," "Polaria," and "Icebergia" are among the list.

The formal transfer of Alaska to the United States took place at Sitka, October 18, 1867. Brigadier General Lovell H. Rousseau acted for the United States government and Prince Maksoutoff represented Russia, although the actual ceremony of transfer was performed by Captain Alexei Pestchourof. The American flag used in this ceremony now reposes in a vault of the Department of State. The Russian flag was lowered by a Russian sailor and the Stars and Stripes hoisted by George Lovell Rousseau, a son of Brigadier General Lovell H. Rousseau.

Following is the Treaty under the terms of which Alaska was ceded to the United States:

#### Treaty of Cession

The United States of America and His Majesty, the Emperor of all the Russias, being desirous of strengthening, if possible, the good understanding which exists between them, have, for that purpose, appointed as their Plenipotentiaries: the President of the United States, William H. Seward, Secretary of State; and His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, the Privy Counsellor Edward de Stoeckl, his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States.

And the said Plenipotentiaries, having exchanged their full powers, which were found to be in due form, have agreed upon and signed the following articles:

#### ARTICLE I.—TERRITORY CEDED, BOUNDARIES.

His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias agrees to cede to the United States, by this convention, immediately upon the exchange of the ratifications thereof, all the territory and dominion now possessed by his said Majesty on the continent of America and in the adjacent islands, the same being contained within the geographical limits herein set forth, to wit: The eastern limit is the line of demarcation between the Russian and the British possessions in North America, as established by the convention between Russia and Great Britain, of February 28-16, 1825, and described in Articles III. and IV. of said convention, in the following terms:

"Commencing from the southermost point of the island called Prince of Wales Island, which point lies in the parallel of 54 degrees 40 minutes north latitude, and between the 131st and 133d degree of west longitude, (meridian of Greenwich), the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel, as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude; from this last mentioned point, the line of demarcation shall follow the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the

coast as far as the point of intersection of the 141st degree of the west longitude, (of the same meridian); and finally, from the said point of intersection, the said meridian line of the 141st degree, in its prolongation as far as the Frozen Ocean.

"IV. With reference to the line of demarcation laid down in the preceding article, it is understood—

1st. That the island called Price of Wales Island shall belong wholly to Russia," (now, by this cession, to the United States.)

"2nd. That whenever the summit of the mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude shall prove to be at the distance of more than ten marine leagues from the ocean, the limit between the British possessions and the line of coast, which is to belong to Russia as above mentioned (that is to say, the limit to the possessions ceded by this convention) shall be formed by a line parallel to the winding of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom."

The western limit within which the territories and dominion conveyed, are contained, passes through a point in Behring's straits on the parallel of sixty-five degrees thirty minutes north latitude, at its intersection by the meridian which passes midway between the islands of Krusemstern, or Ignalook, and the Island of Ratmannoff, or Noonarbook, and proceeds due north, without limitation, into the same Frozen Ocean. The same western limit, beginning at the same initial point, proceeds thence in a course nearly southwest, through Behring's straits and Behring's sea, so as to pass midway between the northwest point of the island of St. Lawrence and the southeast point of Cape Choukotski, to the meridian of one hundred and seventy-two west longitude; thence, from the intersection of that meridian, in a southwesterly direction, so as to pass midway between the island of Attou and the Copper island of the Kormandorski couplet or group, in the North Pacific ocean, to the meridian of one hundred and ninety-three degrees west longitude, so as to include in the territory conveyed the whole of the Aleutian islands east of that meridian.

#### ARTICLE II.—PUBLIC PROPERTY CEDED.

In the cession of territory and dominion made by the preceding article, are included the right of property in all public lots and squares, vacant lands, and all public buildings, fortifications, barracks, and other edifices which are not private individual property. It is, however, understood and agreed, that the churches which have been built in the ceded territory by the Russian government, shall remain the property of such members of the Greek Oriental Church resident in the territory, as may choose to worship therein. Any Government archives, papers and documents relative to the territory and dominion aforesaid, which may now be existing there, will be left in the possession of the agent of the United States; but an authenticated copy of such of them as may be required, will be, at all times, given by the United States to the Russian government, or to such Russian officers or subjects as they may apply for.

#### ARTICLE III.—CITIZENSHIP OF INHABITANTS; UNCIVILIZED TRIBES.

The inhabitants of the ceded territory, according to their choice, reserving their natural allegiance, may return to Russia within three years, but if they should prefer to remain in the ceded

territory, they, with the exception of uncivilized native tribes, shall be admitted to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages and immunities of citizens of the United States, and shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion. The uncivilized tribes will be subject to such laws and regulations as the United States, may from time to time, adopt in regard to aboriginal tribes of that country.

#### ARTICLE IV.—FORMAL DELIVERY.

His Majesty, the Emperor of all the Russias, shall appoint, with convenient despatch, an agent or agents for the purpose of formally delivering to a similar agent or agents appointed on behalf of the United States, the territory, dominion, property, dependencies and appurtenances which are ceded as above, and for doing any other act which may be necessary in regard thereto. But the cession, with the right of immediate possession, is nevertheless to be deemed complete and absolute on the exchange of ratifications, without waiting for such formal delivery.

#### ARTICLE V.—WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS.

Immediately after the exchange of the ratifications of this convention, any fortifications or military posts which may be in the ceded territory, shall be delivered to the agent of the United States, and any Russian troops which may be in the territory shall be withdrawn as soon as may be reasonably and conveniently practicable.

#### ARTICLE VI.—PAYMENT; EFFECT OF CESSION.

In consideration of the cession aforesaid, the United States agree to pay at the Treasury in Washington, within ten months after the exchange of the ratifications of this convention, to the diplomatic representative or other agent of his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, duly authorized to receive the same, seven million two hundred thousand dollars in gold. The cession of territory and dominion herein made is hereby declared to be free and unincumbered by any reservations, privileges, franchises, grants, or possessions, by any associated companies, whether corporate or incorporate, Russian or any other, or by any parties, except merely private individual property-holders; and the cession hereby made, conveys all the rights, franchises, and privileges now belonging to Russia in the said territory or dominion, and appurtenances thereto.

#### ARTICLE VII.—RATIFICATION.

When this convention shall have been duly ratified by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, on the one part, and on the other by His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, the ratifications shall be exchanged at Washington within three months from the date hereof, or sooner, if possible.

In faith whereof, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed this convention, and thereto affixed the seals of their arms.

Done at Washington, the thirtieth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven.

EDOUARD DE STOECKL,  
WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

#### Alaska Under United States Control.

The lowering of the Russian flag and the raising of the Stars and Stripes did not usher in an era of development for Alaska. On the contrary a period of stagnation ensued. Those who re-

count the events of the first quarter century of United States control in Alaska are inclined to draw uncomplimentary comparisons with the last quarter century of Russian rule.

The period from 1867 to 1884 was one of almost absolute governmental neglect. The United States army, which had taken over Alaska from Russia, remained in charge for the first decade. Military rule did not make for progress. During this period, Sitka remained the center of activities. Military posts were established at Kenai, Kodiak, Sitka, Tongass and Wrangell, with detachments on the islands of St. Paul and St. George. All troops except those at Sitka were withdrawn in 1870. Alaska was made a customs collection district in 1868 and deputy collectors were stationed at Wrangell and Sitka. The withdrawal of the remaining soldiers in 1877 was regarded by the few white residents of Alaska as a boon, especially to the native population who had suffered in many ways because of their presence.

From 1877 to 1879, there was no government of any description in Alaska. During this time apparently lawlessness was no more rife than during the period of military rule. Alaska was officially "dry" territory. However, both imported liquor and the product of the hootchenoo stills, operated by the Indians and whites alike, were in abundance, as was also the case during the military regime. The deputy collectors of customs exercised broad powers and served as adjudicators of disputes and to a degree as general police. However, they lacked authority to enforce law and order.

Late in 1878, trouble arose at Sitka over the murder of three white men by Indians. The Indians outnumbered the whites, including Russians, three to one. Notice of impending serious trouble was forwarded to Washington but elicited no response. An appeal was then made to the British Admiral at Victoria, who despatched the "Osprey" under command of Captain A'Court to the scene of the trouble without delay. In April, 1879, the "Osprey" was relieved by the "Alaska," an American vessel which was in turn replaced by the "Jamestown," Captain Lester A. Beardslee, commander. This vessel was the United States government in Alaska until 1881, when the "Wachusett" replaced her. The "Wachusett" was relieved in 1882 by the "Adams," Captain Merriman, commander.

Underwood, in his "Alaska: An Empire in the Making," describes the work of the navy and of Captain Merriman, as follows:

"Captain Merriman became a power among the Indians and he and his ship played an important part in the history of the country. Peace and order reigned at Sitka, Indians and miners at Juneau were chastised when they deserved it and protected in whatever rights any of them had in the abandoned territory. Crooked traders and distillers of illicit liquor generally had a most unpleasant time of it during this period. Captain Merriman,

besides exercising a general police duty about the territory, acted as referee, umpire, probate and appellate judge, arbiter of many vexed questions, and frequently the judgment of a modern Solomon had to be called into requisition in deciding issues in local tribal wars. Many times he was called upon to tear asunder those whom Indian ceremonies had made one, to protect young native Beau Brummels, who scorned the proposal to marry their uncle's widow; to save those doomed to death by torture for witchcraft; to prevent killing of slaves at funerals and Potlatch festivals, and to administer the estates of deceased chieftains. These duties demanded the exercise of tact and no inconsiderable portion of diplomacy. His departure from the wharf was witnessed by wailing groups of natives, who regarded him as the Great White Father of the country."

All who have studied the early history of Alaska are agreed apparently that the work of the navy was much superior to that of the army and that conditions in 1884 when civil government was granted to Alaska, were much better than in 1877 when the army was withdrawn.

The bill providing for civil government in Alaska was introduced in the U. S. Senate in December 1883, was passed by that body in January 1884, and by the House of Representatives in May, 1884, when it was signed by President Arthur and became a law. The Act created the District of Alaska and provided for the appointment of officials. The officers of the first government, who took office in September 1884, were: Governor, John H. Kinkead; United States District Judge, Ward MacAllister, Jr.; United States District Attorney, E. W. Haskell; United States Marshal for the District of Alaska, M. C. Hillyer; Commissioner at Juneau, John G. Brady; Commissioner at Fort Wrangell, George P. Ihrie; Commissioner at Unalaska, Chester Seeber; Clerk of the District Court, Andrew T. Lewis.

Since the passage of the first civil government act for Alaska other important laws have been created. Brief reference is made to these in the article on civil government in Alaska which precedes this article.

#### The Mining Industry.

The high spots in Alaska history are linked with one of her great industries, that of mining. Wrangell was the first of the Alaska towns to feel the impetus which comes from the presence of stampeders in search of gold. During the late 70's and early 80's, it was the outfitting point for 30,000 miners who stamped up the Stikeen River and into the Cassiar District, British Columbia. Again in 1897, after the discovery of gold on the Klondike River, many stampeders outfitted at Wrangell, thinking that they could reach this El Dorado by way of the Stikeen River, Telegraph Creek and Teslin Lake, thus avoiding the Chilkoot Pass and White Horse Rapids.

The first placer gold mined in Alaska came from the Silver Bow Basin, Juneau, the oldest American settlement in Alaska, in 1880. About the same time the Treadwell quartz mine was developed in a small way and was later enlarged until it was second to no gold mine in the world at the time of the big cave-in and flooding of the major part of the workings in the spring of 1917. Gastineau Channel has been the center of considerable mining activity from the time of the first discovery of gold in Silver Bow Basin to the present time. The Alaska-Juneau mine, in 1922, produced one-sixth of all the gold mined in Alaska. The towns situated on the Channel have derived the major part of their prosperity from mining, during their entire history.

The discovery of gold in the Klondike region, Yukon Territory, in 1896 was responsible for a period of increased activity in Juneau during the succeeding years when the stampeders were en route. Wrangell's growth at this time has already been mentioned. Skagway came into being over night and in 1879-98 was a city of some fifteen thousand inhabitants. Altho depleted in population at the present time, the city stands at the Gateway to the Yukon Territory and is of commercial importance for this reason.

The placer mines of the Forty Mile River district were discovered in 1887; those of the Rampart district, in 1893; those of the Sunrise district, Cook Inlet, in 1894; and those of the upper Koyukuk River, in 1899. The first real stampede to Alaska territory, however, occurred with the discovery of placer gold on Anvil Creek near Nome in 1898. The stampeders arrived by the thousands during 1899 and 1900 when gold in paying quantities was discovered on the beach at Nome. Following the Nome stampede other placer deposits were opened on Seward peninsula, notably at Candle Creek, Council City, Solomon, and in the Kougarok country to the Northward. After the days of the rush Nome's population declined until 1905, when renewed activity occurred for a few years as the result of the discovery of gold in the old beach levels on the tundra back of the present beach.

The discovery of gold near Fairbanks in 1902 created a new mecca for the disappointed stampeders who had visited the Klondike, Nome, and other districts, and thousands flocked to Fairbanks, which soon developed into a thriving city. For several years following the first discovery of gold in this section, new finds were made on creeks in the district, and Fairbanks, therefore, had a rather prolonged period of prosperity. The district still holds much promise both as a mining and agricultural section.

The discovery of placer gold near Hot Springs on the Tanana River, in 1906, resulted in the establishment of a permanent settlement there. Iditarod is among the last of the large placer camps. The district was discovered in 1909 and is still producing

approximately one-half million dollars in gold annually. Gold was discovered on the creek back of Ruby in 1912, resulting in the establishment of a permanent settlement at that point. The Tolovana strike in 1914 resulted in a large influx of gold seekers to that section. The Kantishna, Hyder and Willow Creek districts now loom large on the gold mining horizon.

In addition to the settlements mentioned as being founded largely as a result of gold mining activities, other minerals have played a part in the development of Alaska's history and commerce. Copper was responsible for the construction of the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad, which connects the copper mines at Kennecott and vicinity with the coast. Cordova, the coast terminal, sprang into existence at the time that construction on his railroad was begun, in 1907. Other settlements in the Copper River section owe their existence to the production of copper.

Coal, situated in the Matanuska River valley, was responsible for the construction of the Alaska Central Railroad with its coast terminal at Seward, thus resulting in the establishment of this thriving community. Coal in the Matanuska and Nenana River Valleys, likewise, was responsible largely for the construction of the Government Railroad and the existence of Anchorage, Nenana, and a number of other smaller communities along the line of the railroad. Coal and oil in the Bering River district created a permanent settlement at Katalla.

The report of the Territorial Mine Inspector for the year 1921, places the total mineral production in Alaska since 1880 at \$478,600,789.00, more than sixty times the purchase price. The value by substances is as follows:

Gold .....	\$327,785,553
Copper .....	135,443,202
Silver .....	8,084,892
Coal .....	2,276,128
Tin .....	935,264
Lead .....	708,258
Antimony .....	237,500
Petroleum, marble, gypsum, quicksilver, platinum, etc. .....	3,129,992
 Total .....	 \$478,600,789

Alaska's undeveloped mineral resources are still enormous. Known tin deposits, principally on Seward Peninsula, have no equal on the North American continent. The coal bearing lands of Alaska cover 12,000 square miles and contain billions of tons of coal. Some coal veins in the Nenana River region are 45 feet in thickness. At one point on this river there are four veins one

above the other separated by narrow layers of shale and sandstone and totaling, in all, 113 feet in coal.

Oil seepages are found in various parts of Alaska, notably on Bering River, Yakatga Beach, Cold Bay, Iliamna, in the Anchorage and Nenana districts, and on the Arctic coast. The only producing wells are owned by the Chilkat Oil Company, Katalla. The production from ten wells drilled on a single patented claim is from 1000 to 1200 barrels monthly.

#### The Fishing and Fur-Seal Industry.

Perhaps less romantic than mining, but equally as profitable in a commercial way, and the source of a much greater revenue to the Territory, are the fisheries and fur seal industries of Alaska. Four kinds of fish are chiefly of commercial value—salmon, cod, halibut, and herring. The earliest figures on production show a catch of \$202,138 value in cod, and of \$16,000 in salmon in 1868. The banner year in the fishing industry in Alaska was that of 1918 when the combined value of all fisheries products totalled \$59,144,859 exclusive of the fur-seal industry. This sum is more than eight times the purchase price of Alaska.

The total valuation of fisheries and fur seal products from 1868 to and including the year 1921 was approximately \$540,000,000, more than seventy times the purchase price of Alaska. Of this amount \$480,000,000 was derived from fisheries and \$60,000,000 from the fur-seal industry.

The fishing industry is the principal source of revenue of many of the coast cities and smaller communities. Ketchikan is easily the most important commercial fishing center in Alaska. Petersburg, Wrangell, Sitka, Kodiak, Seldovia, Kenai and numerous smaller communities owe their existence as permanent settlements and their present prosperity more largely to the fishing industry than to any other activity.

Salmon are found along the entire Alaska coast from Portland Canal to Point Barrow. The principal canneries are situated in southeastern Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet and Bristol Bay. The bulk of salmon are canned, although there are a few salmon salteries, pickling plants and mild curing stations in operation. Salmon, also, are one of the principal varieties of fresh fish, the King Salmon being the best adapted to the fresh fish market because of the fact that it may be found in partially landlocked waters during the entire year and caught by the process of trolling. Dried or smoked salmon are especially valuable as dog feed and are used also in this form by the Indian population as food.

Cod are found chiefly along the southern slope of the Alaska Peninsula and at a number of points in Bering Sea. This fish is canned, dry salted and pickled. It is also marketed in the fresh

state, either frozen or iced. Cod fish tongues are a great delicacy. A total of 18,800 pounds was marketed in 1918.

Halibut is the principal variety of fresh fish and is usually marketed either iced or frozen. A small per cent is salted or smoked. Halibut are found chiefly in the channels of the Alexander Archipelago and ocean waters adjacent thereto, and in Cook Inlet and Bering Sea.

Herring are found chiefly in southeastern Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet and Bering Sea. This fish is canned, dry salted, pickled and offered fresh in the market. Frozen herring also are sold in large quantities as bait. The manufacture of fertilizer and oil from herring and the waste from salmon and other fish is an industry which is conducted on a small scale. The principal fertilizer plant is located at Kilisnoo in southeastern Alaska.

From 15,000 to 25,000 persons are employed annually in the fishing industry in Alaska during the summer and early fall months. A considerable part of this labor is imported from Pacific coast ports by the large cannery interests. During the year of greatest production, 1918, 31,213 persons were employed in the Alaska fisheries.

The fur-seal industry is confined chiefly to the Pribilof Islands, in the Bering Sea, altho deep sea sealing is done by Alaska Indians during the period when seals are migrating. The seal herd passes along the coast of southeastern Alaska usually in the early spring of each year and it is at this point that sealing by Indians is done. The regulations of the Department of Commerce, which has exclusive jurisdiction over fur-sealing, provide that Indians shall not kill fur-seal within the three mile limit and that sealers must not use power boats or fire arms.

The white population of Alaska is prohibited from killing fur-seal at any time. Fur-seal are officially killed annually by representatives of the Bureau of Fisheries, Department of Commerce, at the rookeries on the Pribilof Islands. Extreme care is exercised in the killing that breeding stock may continue to be plentiful. The year, 1920, was the banner year in production, the sale of skins amounting to \$1,707,071. There were, at the time of the 1921 census, 581,453 seals in the Pribilof Islands seal herds.

#### National Forests of Alaska.

There are two national forests in Alaska—the Tongass, in southeastern Alaska and the Chugach, in the Prince William Sound and Kenai Peninsula regions and on Afognak Island. These forests cover 20,573,444 acres or about 5½ per cent of the total area of Alaska. Of this amount 500,000 acres have been cruised and mapped.

The Tongass forest is the larger and of more commercial importance. It is estimated to contain about 74,000,000,000 board

feet of timber ripe for marketing. Stands of 100,000 board feet per acre are not infrequent. This forest is ideally situated for marketing. It has 9,000 miles of shore line. Seventy-five per cent of the usable timber is within two miles of tide water. The timber runs 65 per cent western hemlock; 23 per cent Sitka spruce; and 12 per cent western red cedar, yellow cedar, cottonwood and white fir.

Alaska forests contain much timber suitable for paper manufacture. About 6,000,000 tons of pulpwood are required annually to supply the United States with paper. Experts estimate that the Tongass National Forest could easily supply one-third of this amount indefinitely.

The Chugach National Forest is smaller than the Tongass. Its trees are not as large and the stand of timber only about one-half as heavy. It is estimated to contain about 7,000,000,000 board feet of lumber—one tenth that of the Tongass. Western hemlock predominates, with spruce, poplar and birch making up the balance. It also contains much timber suitable for paper manufacture.

About 500,000,000 board feet of timber have been cut and sold from the national forests of Alaska during the past ten years which covers the major part of the period of activity along this line. The principal part of this lumber has been taken from the Tongass National Forest. Practically the entire output of lumber has been used in local industries, altho an export trade has developed recently.

There is at present one paper pulp mill in Alaska. This is located at Speel River in southeastern Alaska. It has a capacity of 24 tons daily.

Provision is made for filing on homesteads within the boundaries of Alaska forests. On December 31, 1922, a total of 305 claims had been filed with the Alaska Forest Service, embracing 35,670 acres. One hundred and seventy-one of these claims were filed in the Tongass and 134 in the Chugach forest.

Twenty-five water power sites have been surveyed and mapped within the boundaries of the Tongass Forest. Of this number twelve have capacities ranging between 10,000 and 30,000 horse power. There are at least three major power sites within the Chugach Forest. Up to the present time these have not been surveyed or mapped.

#### Agriculture.

Agriculture, as yet a minor Alaska industry, is destined to become one of great importance. There are immense tracts of land in the Matanuska and Tanana River valleys which are of demonstrated agricultural value. In addition there are numerous smaller tracts along the coastal region and other points in the interior

which are suitable for agricultural purposes. Estimates by the Department of Agriculture place the area of agricultural and grazing land in Alaska at 64,000,000 acres, exclusive of the great tracts which are suitable for reindeer. There are more agricultural lands in Alaska than in the entire Scandinavian Peninsula, which supports a population of more than ten million persons engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Approximately 2,500 acres of farm land is under cultivation in the Tanana River valley. There is a flour mill at Fairbanks which is the property of the Tanana Valley Agricultural Association. This mill converted 35 tons of native wheat into graham, whole wheat and white flour, during the winter of 1921-22.

In addition to the small grains, the principal products of Alaska farms are small fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries, currants and gooseberries; potatoes; rutabagas; turnips; carrots; celery; and numerous other garden vegetables.

Stock raising as an industry has not developed to any great extent. However, cattle and hogs are bred in both the interior and coastal regions.

There are five agricultural experiment stations in Alaska which are maintained by the Department of Agriculture, United States Government. They are situated at Sitka, Kodiak, Matanuska, Fairbanks and Rampart. Each station performs work particularly suited to the district in which it is located. The various enterprises either accomplished or absorbing the efforts of these stations at the present time, are the development by crossbreeding, of varieties of strawbeeries, raspberries, currants, gooseberries, apples and other fruits which will thrive in Alaska; the crossbreeding of potatoes, grains, alfalfa, vetch and garden vegetables; the crossbreeding of cattle, sheep and other livestock; and the analysis and testing of soil.

#### Other Industries.

Limited space precludes other than the mere mention of a number of other Alaska industries. The value of furs exported, exclusive of the fur-seal, has averaged approximately \$1,500,000 per year for the past five years. The principal fur-bearing animals are ermine, mink, marten, muskrat, otter, beaver, lynx, bear, wolf, and wolverine.

The reindeer of Alaska now number approximately 260,000. Of this number, two thirds belong to Alaska Indians and the balance to Lapps and whites. Reindeer are the source of a large portion of the meat supply of several thousand Indians in the Seward Peninsula, Kotzebue Sound and Kuskokwim River districts. The white population of these districts also use the meat as a staple food. Lomen and Company, Nome, are the principal export-

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ers of reindeer meat to the United States. In 1920 this firm shipped 256,449 pounds, valued at \$61,865.

Fur-farming is developing into a thriving industry, particularly in southeastern Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, and on the islands bordering the Alaska Peninsula. Blue fox, silver fox, mink and marten are the fur-bearing animals which are propagated. Blue fox farming leads. These animals usually are given the range of an island. Silver fox, mink and marten are propagated in corrals. Attempts to propagate marten have met with indifferent success. The other fur-bearing animals are propagated successfully.

On January 1, 1923, a total of 137 islands within the limits of the two national forests were under lease to fur-farmers. Of this number, 108 are in the Tongass and 29 in the Chugach Forest. In addition, 9 islands under the supervision of the Bureau of Biological Survey were under lease. This Bureau also has issued 38 permits, having all the effect of a lease, in the Aleutian Islands Reservation. This makes a total of 184 permits and leases issued to fur-farmers in Alaska.

There are now two active whaling stations in Alaska, one at Port Armstrong in Southeastern Alaska and the other at Akutan in the Aleutian Islands. Whaling vesesls operate chiefly in the North Pacific Ocean. During the year 1919 a total of 580 whales were taken. The value of whaling products during this year was \$1,790,867.

## CIVIL GOVERNMENT OF ALASKA.

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Introduction.

From June 20, 1867, the date on which formal exchange of ratification of the treaty of purchase was made by Russia and the United States, until May 17, 1884, Alaska was an unorganized territory. There was no civil or criminal code, and no system of courts. On May 17, 1884, Congress enacted a law creating the "District of Alaska," with the seat of government at Sitka, and providing a system of courts and a civil and criminal code, and making the laws of the State of Oregon applicable to Alaska.

The "District of Alaska" was terminated and the "Territory of Alaska" created in 1912 by the passage of what is known as the "Organic Act." Prior to this time another very important law was passed by Congress providing for the incorporation of towns. This law was approved on June 6, 1900. Towns which have been incorporated under its provisions in the order of date of incorporation are as follows:

Juneau, Skagway, Nome, Valdez, Eagle, Douglas, Fairbanks, Wrangell, Ketchikan, Cordova, Petersburg, Haines, Iditarod, Tanana, Seward, Anchorage, Sitka and Nenana.

In 1906 an act was passed giving Alaska representation in Congress and providing for the election of a Delegate to Congress.

The "Organic Act" under which Alaska became a Territory is to Alaska what a State Constitution is to a State. For that reason it should be studied by upper grade and high school students. The Organic Act was approved, August 24, 1912. Two additions which are in the nature of amendments, have been made since that date. Following is the Act with amendments:

**Organic Act.**

AN ACT to create a legislative assembly in the Territory of Alaska, to confer legislative power thereon, and for other purposes.

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Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled:

That the territory ceded to the United States by Russia by the Treaty of March thirtieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, and known as Alaska, shall be and constitute the Territory of Alaska under the laws of the United States, the government of which shall be organized and administered as provided by said laws.

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Sec. 2. That the capital of the Territory shall be at the city of Juneau, Alaska, and the seat of government shall be maintained there.

Sec. 3. That the Constitution of the United States, and all the laws thereof which are not locally inapplicable, shall have the same force and effect within the said Territory as elsewhere in the United States; that all the laws of the United States heretofore passed establishing the executive and judicial departments in Alaska shall continue in full force and effect until amended or repealed by Act of Congress; that except as herein provided all laws now in force in Alaska shall continue in full force and effect until altered, amended, or repealed by Congress or by the legislature: Provided, That the authority herein granted to the legislature to alter, amend, modify, and repeal laws in force in Alaska shall not extend to the customs, internal-revenue, postal, or other general laws of the United States or to the game, fish, and fur-seal laws and laws relating to fur-bearing animals of the United States applicable to Alaska, or to the laws of the United States providing for taxes on business and trade, or to the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the construction and maintenance of roads, the establishment and maintenance of schools, and the care and support of insane persons in the District of Alaska, and for other purposes," approved January twenty-seventh, nineteen hundred and five, and the several Acts amendatory thereof: Provided further, That this provision shall not operate to prevent the legislature from imposing other and additional taxes or licenses. And the legislature shall pass no law depriving the judges and officers of the district court of Alaska of any authority, jurisdiction, or function exercised by like judges or officers of district courts of the United States.

Sec. 4. That the legislative power and authority of said Territory shall be vested in a legislature, which shall consist of a senate and a house of representatives. The senate shall consist of eight members, two from each of the four judicial divisions into which Alaska is now divided by Act of Congress, each of whom shall have at the time of his election the qualifications of an elector in Alaska, and shall have been a resident and an inhabitant in the division from which he is elected for at least two years prior to the date of his election. The term of office of each member of the senate shall be four years: Provided, That immediately after they shall be assembled in consequence of the first election they shall, by lot or drawing, be divided in each division into two classes; the seats of the members of the first class shall be vacated at the end of two years and the seats of the members of the second class shall be vacated at the end of four years, so that one member of the senate shall, after the first election, be elected biennially at the regular election from each division. The house of representatives shall consist of sixteen members, four from each of the four judicial divisions into which Alaska is now divided by Act of Congress. The terms of office of each representative shall be for two years and each representative shall possess the same qualifications as are prescribed for members of the senate and the persons receiving the highest number of legal votes in each judicial division cast in said election for senator or representative shall be deemed and declared elected to such office: Provided, that in the event of a tie vote the candidates thus affected shall settle the question by lot. In case of a vacancy in either branch of the legislature the governor shall order an election to fill such vacancy, giving due and proper

notice therof. That each member of the legislature shall be paid by the United States the sum of fifteen dollars per day for each day's attendance while the legislature is in session, and mileage, in addition, at the rate of fifteen cents per mile for each mile from his home to the capital and return by the nearest traveled route.

Sec. 5. That the first election of members of the Legislature of Alaska shall be held on Tuesday next after the first Monday, nineteen hundred and twelve, and all subsequent elections for the election of such members shall be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November biennially thereafter; that the qualifications of electors, the regulations governing the creation of voting precincts, the appointment and qualifications of election officers, the supervision of elections, the giving of notices thereof, the forms of ballots, the register of votes, the challenging of voters, and the returns and the canvass of the returns of the result of all such elections for members of the legislature shall be the same as those prescribed in the Act of Congress entitled "An Act providing for the election of a Delegate to the House of Representatives from the Territory of Alaska," approved May seventh, nineteen hundred and six, and all the provisions of said Act which are applicable are extended to said elections for members of the legislature, and shall govern the same, and the canvassing board created by said Act shall canvass the returns of such elections and issue certificates of election to each member elected to the said legislature; and all the penal provisions contained in section fifteen of the said Act shall apply to elections for members of the legislature as fully as they now apply to elections for Delegate from Alaska to the House of Representatives.

Sec. 6. That the Legislature of Alaska shall convene at the capital at the city of Juneau, Alaska, on the first Monday in March in the year nineteen hundred and thirteen, and on the first Monday in March every two years thereafter; but the said legislature shall not continue in session longer than sixty days in any two years unless again convened in extraordinary session by a proclamation of the governor, which shall set forth the object thereof and give at least thirty days' written notice to each member of said legislature, and in such case shall not continue in session longer than fifteen days. The governor of Alaska is hereby authorized to convene the legislature in extraordinary session for a period not exceeding fifteen days when requested to do so by the President of the United States, or when any public danger or necessity may require it.

Sec. 7. That when the legislature shall convene under the law, the senate and house of representatives shall each organize by the election of one of their number as presiding officer, who shall be designated in the case of the senate as "president of the senate" and in the case of the house of representatives as "speaker of the house of representatives," and by the election by each body of the subordinate officers provided for in section eighteen hundred and sixty-one of the United States Revised Statutes of eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, and each of said subordinate officers shall receive the compensation provided in that section; Provided, That no person shall be employed for whom salary, wages, or compensation is not provided in the appropriation made by Congress.

Sec. 8. That the enacting clause of all laws passed by the legislature shall be "Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Ter-

ritory of Alaska." No law shall embrace more than one subject, which shall be expressed in its title.

Sec. 9. The legislative power of the Territory shall extend to all rightful subjects of legislation not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States, but no law shall be passed interfering with the primary disposal of the soil; no tax shall be imposed upon the property of the United States; nor shall the lands or other property of nonresidents be taxed higher than the lands or property of residents; nor shall the legislature grant to any corporation, association, or individual any special or exclusive privilege, immunity, or franchise without the affirmative approval of Congress; nor shall the legislature pass local or special laws in any of the cases enumerated in the Act of July thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-six; nor shall it grant private charters or special privileges, but it may, by general act, permit persons to associate themselves together as bodies corporate for manufacturing, mining, agricultural, and other industrial pursuits, and for the conduct of business of insurance, savings banks, banks of discount and deposit (but not of issue), loans, trust, and guaranty associations, for the establishment and conduct of cemeteries, and for the construction and operation of railroads, wagon roads, vessels, and irrigation ditches, and the colonization and improvement of lands in connection therewith, or for colleges, seminaries, churches, libraries, or any other benevolent, charitable, or scientific association, but the authority embraced in this section shall only permit the organization of corporations or associations whose chief business shall be in the Territory of Alaska; no divorce be granted by the legislature, nor shall any divorce be granted by the courts of the Territory, unless the applicant therefor shall have resided in the Territory for two years next preceding the application, which residence and all causes for divorce shall be determined by the court upon evidence adduced in open court; nor shall any lottery or the sale of lottery tickets be allowed; nor shall the legislature or any municipality interfere with or attempt in anywise to limit the Acts of Congress to prevent and punish gambling, and all gambling implements shall be seized by the United States marshal or any of its deputies, or any constable or police officer, and destroyed; nor shall spirituous or intoxicating liquors be manufactured or sold, except under regulations and restrictions as Congress shall provide; nor shall any public money be appropriated by the Territory or any municipal corporation therein for the support or benefit of any sectarian, denominational, or private school, or any school not under the exclusive control of the Government; nor shall the Government of the Territory of Alaska or any political or municipal corporation or subdivision of the Territory make any subscription to the capital stock of any incorporated company, or in any manner lend its credit for the use thereof; nor shall the Territory, or any municipal corporation therein, have power or authority to create or assume any bonded indebtedness whatever; nor to borrow money in the name of the Territory or of any municipal division thereof; nor to pledge the faith of the people of the same for any loan whatever, either directly or indirectly; nor to create, nor to assume, any indebtedness, except for the actual running expenses thereof; and no such indebtedness for actual running expenses shall be created or assumed in excess of the actual income of the Territory or municipality for that year, including as a part of such income appropriations then made by Congress, and taxes levied and payable and applicable to the

payment of such indebtedness and cash and other money credits on hand and applicable and not already pledged for prior indebtedness: Provided, That all authorized indebtedness shall be paid in the order of its creation; all taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of subjects and shall be levied and collected under general laws, and the assessments shall be according to the actual value thereof. No tax shall be levied for Territorial purposes in excess of one per centum of the assesseed valuation of the property therein in any one year; nor shall any incorporated town or municipality levy any tax, for any purpose, in excess of two per centum of the assessed valuation of property within the town in any one year: Provided, That the Congress reserves the exclusive power for five years from the date of the approval of this Act to fix and impose any tax or taxes upon railways or railway property in Alaska, and no acts or laws passed by the Legislature of Alaska providing for a county form of government therein shall have any force or effect until it shall be submitted to and approved by the affirmative action of Congress; and all laws passed, or attempted to be passed, by such legislature in said Territory inconsistent with the provisions of this section shall be null and void: Provided further, That nothing herein contained shall be held to abridge the right of the legislature to modify the qualifications of electors by extending the elective franchise to women.

Sec. 10. That the senate and house of representatives shall each choose its own officers, determine the rules of its own proceedings not inconsistent with this Act, and keep a journal of its proceedings; that the ayes and noes of the members of either house on any question shall, at the request of one-fifth of the members present, be entered upon the journal; that a majority of the members, to which each house is entitled shall constitute a quorum of such house for the conduct of business, of which quorum a majority vote shall suffice; that a smaller number than a quorum may adjourn from day to day and compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner and under such penalties as each house may provide; that for the purpose of ascertaining whether there is a quorum present the presiding officer shall count and report the actual number of members present.

Sec. 11. That no member of the legislature shall hold or be appointed to any office which has been created, or the salary or emoluments of which have been increased, while he was a member, during the term for which he was elected and for one year after the expiration of such term; and no person holding a commission or appointment under the United States shall be a member of the legislature or shall hold any office under the government of said Territory.

Sec. 12. That no member of the legislature shall be held to answer before any other tribunal for any words uttered in the exercise of his legislative functions. That the members of the legislature shall, in all cases except treason, felony, or breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance upon the sessions of the respective houses, and in going to and returning from the same: Provided, That such privilege as to going and returning shall not cover a period of more than ten days each way, except in the second division, when it shall extend to twenty days each way, and the fourth division to fifteen days each way.

Sec. 13. That a bill in order to become a law shall have three separate readings in each house, the final passage of which

in each house shall be by a majority vote of all the members to which such house is entitled, taken by ayes and noes, and entered upon its journal. That every bill, when passed by the house in which it originated or in which amendments thereto shall have originated, shall immediately be enrolled and certified by the presiding officer and the clerk and sent to the other house for consideration.

Sec. 14. That, except as herein provided, all bills passed by the legislature shall, in order to be valid, be signed by the governor. That every bill which shall have passed the legislature shall be certified by the presiding officers and clerks of both houses, and shall thereupon be presented to the governor. If he approves it, he shall sign it and it shall become a law at the expiration of ninety days thereafter, unless sooner given effect by a two-thirds vote of said legislature. If the governor does not approve such bill, he may return it, with his objections to the legislature. He may veto any specific item or items in any bill which appropriates money for special purposes, but shall veto other bills, if at all, only as a whole. That upon the receipt of a veto message from the governor each house of the legislature shall enter the same at large upon its journal and proceed to reconsider such bill, or part of a bill, and again vote upon it by ayes and noes, which shall be entered upon its journal. If, after such reconsideration, such bill or part of a bill shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of all the members to which each house is entitled, it shall thereby become a law. That if the governor neither signs nor vetoes a bill within three days (Sunday excepted) after it is delivered to him, it shall become a law without his signature, unless the legislature adjourns sine die prior to the expiration of such three days. If any bill shall not be returned by the governor within three days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the legislature, by its adjournment, prevents the return of the bill, in which case it shall not be a law.

Sec. 15. That there shall be annually appropriated by Congress a sum sufficient to pay the salaries of members and authorized employees of the Legislature of Alaska, the printing of the laws, and other incidental expenses thereof; the said sums shall be disbursed by the governor of Alaska, under sole instructions from the Secretary of the Treasury, and he shall account quarterly to the Secretary for the manner in which the said funds shall have been expended; and no expenditure, to be paid out of money appropriated by Congress, shall be made by the governor or by the legislature for objects not authorized by the Acts of Congress making the appropriations, nor beyond the sums thus appropriated for such objects.

Sec. 16. That the governor of Alaska shall, within ninety days after the close of each session of the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, transmit a correct copy of all the laws and resolutions passed by the said legislature certified to by the secretary of the Territory, with the seal of the Territory attached; one copy to the President of the United States, and one to the Secretary of State of the United States; and the legislature shall make provisions for printing the session laws and resolutions within ninety days after the close of each session and for their distribution to public officials and sale to the people of the Territory.

Sec. 17. That after the year nineteen hundred and twelve the election for Delegate from the Territory of Alaska, provided by "An Act providing for the election of a Delegate to the House of Representatives from the Territory of Alaska," approved May seventh, nineteen hundred and six, shall be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November in the year nineteen hundred and fourteen, and every second year thereafter on the said Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, and all of the provisions of the aforesaid Act shall continue to be in full force and effect and shall apply to the said election in every respect as is now provided for the election to be held in the month of August therein; Provided, That the time for holding an election in said Territory for Delegate in Alaska to the House of Representatives to fill a vacancy, whether such vacancy is caused by failure to elect at the time prescribed by law, or by the death, resignation, or incapacity of a person elected, may be prescribed by an act passed by the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska: Provided, further, That when such election is held it shall be governed in every respect by the laws passed by Congress governing such election.

Sec. 18. That an officer of the Engineer Corps of the United States Army, a geologist in charge of Alaska surveys, and officer in the Engineer Corps of the United States Navy, and a civil engineer who has had practical experience in railroad construction and has not been connected with any railroad enterprise in said Territory be appointed by the President as a commission hereby authorized and instructed to conduct an examination into the transportation question in the Territory of Alaska; to examine railroad routes from the seaboard to the coal fields and to the interior and navigable waterways; to secure surveys and other information with respect to railroads, including cost of construction and operation; to obtain information in respect to the coal fields and their proximity to railroad routes; and to make report of the facts to Congress on or before the first day of December, nineteen hundred and twelve, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, together with their conclusions and recommendations in respect to the best and most available routes for railroads in Alaska which will develop the country and the resources thereof for the use of the people of the United States: Provided further, That the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated to defray the expenses of said commission.

Sec. 19. That the Committee on Territories of the Senate and Committee on Territories of the House of Representatives are hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to jointly codify, compile, publish, and annotate all the laws of the United States applicable to the Territory of Alaska, and said committees are jointly authorized to employ such assistance as may be necessary for that purpose; and the sum of five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, to cover the expenses of said work, which shall be paid upon vouchers properly signed and approved by the chairmen of said committees.

Sec. 20. That all laws passed by the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska shall be submitted to the Congress by the President of the United States, and if, disapproved by Congress, they shall be null and of no effect.

Approved, August 24, 1912.

**AMENDMENT TO ORGANIC ACT.**

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled:

That nothing in that Act of Congress entitled "An Act creating a legislative assembly in the Territory of Alaska and conferring legislative power thereon, and for other purposes," approved August twenty-fourth, nineteen hundred and twelve, shall be so construed as to prevent the courts now existing or that may be hereafter created in said Territory from enforcing within their respective jurisdictions all laws passed by the legislature within the power conferred upon it, the same as if such laws were passed by Congress, nor to prevent the legislature passing laws imposing additional duties, not inconsistent with the present duties of their respective offices, upon the governor, marshals, deputy marshals, clerks of the district courts, and United States commissioners acting as justices of the peace, judges of probate courts, recorders, and coroners, and providing the necessary expenses of performing such duties, and in the prosecuting of all crimes denounced by Territorial laws the cost shall be paid the same as is now or may hereafter be provided by Act of Congress providing for the prosecution of criminal offenses in said Territory, except that in prosecutions growing out of any revenue law passed by the legislature the costs shall be paid as in civil actions and such prosecutions shall be in the name of the Territory.

Approved, August 29, 1914.

**AMENDMENT TO ORGANIC ACT.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled;

That the Legislature of Alaska is hereby empowered to establish and maintain schools for white and colored children and children of mixed blood who lead a civilized life in said Territory and to make appropriations of Territorial funds for that purpose; and all laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are to that extent repealed.

Approved, March 3, 1917.

**DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT.**

There are three departments of government represented in Alaska as in each of the States and in the United States Government. They are the executive, legislative, and judicial departments. Alaska differs from a State, however, in that the legislative department is the only one that is strictly under the control of the people of Alaska, and then only in the matter of the selection of the members of the Legislature whose acts are subject to veto by the Governor, who is appointed by the President of the United States, or to nullification by Congress.

**Executive Department.****GOVERNOR.**

The Governor of Alaska is chief executive officer of the Territory. He is appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, for a term of

four years, and until his successor is appointed and qualified. He is paid a salary of \$7,000 per annum, and has the powers analogous to those of a Governor of a State or Territory. (See any standard Civics textbook.) The following special powers and duties are given to Alaska's Governor:

1. Ex-officio Superintendent of Public Instruction.
2. Make annual report to the Secretary of the Interior.
3. Appoint notaries public.
4. Transmit laws passed by the Legislature to the President of the United States and to the Secretary of State.
5. Issue licenses to non-resident hunters and to shippers of big game.
6. Recommend game wardens for appointment in each judicial division.
7. Appoint special agents for the suppression of the liquor traffic in each judicial division.
8. Make provisions in conjunction with the Secretary of the Interior for the care of Alaska insane.
9. Custodian of Alaska Library and Museum.
10. Lease school lands.
11. Appoint trustees of Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines.
12. Service on a number of boards created by the Territorial Legislature.

#### SURVEYOR-GENERAL AND SECRETARY OF ALASKA.

The Surveyor-General, and ex-officio Secretary of Alaska, is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate for a term of four years. He receives an annual salary of \$4,000 from the Federal Government and \$2,000 from the Territory for additional compensation as Secretary of Alaska and member of Territorial boards. This official, as Secretary of Alaska, performs such duties as are usually performed by the secretary of state in the average State or Territory. (See any standard Civics textbook). His duties also partake of the nature of those of a lieutenant-governor in that he is acting-governor of Alaska during the absence from the Territory of the Chief executive or in case of the death or resignation of this official.

The duties of the Surveyor-General's office consist of an examination of government surveys in Alaska, preparation of plats, transcription of field notes of surveyors and the like.

The Secretary of Alaska is a member of a number of Territorial boards.

#### ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

The Attorney-General is elected by the qualified voters of Alaska for a term of four years. He is paid an annual salary

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of \$5,000. His duties are analogous to those of an Attorney-General in the States.

#### TERRITORIAL TREASURER.

The Territorial Treasurer is appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Territorial Senate, for a term of four years. He serves as a member of the banking and other boards. A salary of \$5,000 per annum is paid this official, \$4,000 of which is for service as Treasurer of Alaska and \$1,000 as member of various Territorial boards. He is collector of taxes and custodian of the moneys of the Territory and disburses the same as appropriated by the Legislature.

#### TERRITORIAL MINE INSPECTOR.

The Territorial Mine Inspector, and ex-officio Labor Commissioner, is appointed by the Governor for a term of two years. He receives a salary of \$3,000 per annum. His duties include a general inspection of mines with particular attention to such matters as timbering, ventilation, and the means in use for the preservation and safety of the employees. He collects and compiles statistics relating to the mines of the Territory and keeps in touch with means for furthering the mining industry.

As Labor Commissioner, he is empowered to enforce sanitary regulations affecting canneries, factories, or other establishments, where labor is employed, and is required to collect and compile statistics relating "to the industrial, social, and sanitary conditions of the laboring classes," and to report the same to the Governor bi-ennially.

#### COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION.

The Commissioner of Education is appointed by the Territorial Board of Education for a term of two years. He receives a salary of \$4,000 per annum. He is the executive officer of the Territorial Board of Education, and exercises general supervision over all public educational institutions.

#### COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH.

The Commissioner of Health is appointed by the Governor for a term of two years. He receives a salary of \$1,800 per annum. The Governor also appoints three Assistant Commissioners of Health, one for each judicial division except the First at a salary of \$400 per annum, and for a term of two years. The Commissioner of Health has "general supervision of the interests of health and life of the citizens of the Territory."

#### Legislative Department.

The Territorial Legislature is bi-cameral and consists of a Senate and House of Representatives. The Senate consists of

eight members, two from each judicial division into which Alaska is divided by Act of Congress, and the House of Representatives of sixteen members, four from each judicial division. Senators are elected by the qualified electors of the respective divisions for a term of four years, and representatives for a term of two years. Qualifications of members of the Legislature are as follows:

Each member must have at the time of his election the qualifications of an elector in Alaska, and shall have been a resident and an inhabitant in the division from which he is elected for at least two years prior to the date of his election.

The Legislature convenes at the capitol on the first Monday in March in odd numbered years. The regular session lasts sixty days. Special sessions may be called by the Governor on thirty days' notice to each member. Such sessions may not last longer than fifteen days.

Each legislator receives a salary of \$15.00 per day for each day's attendance while the Legislature is in session, and mileage, in addition, at the rate of fifteen cents per mile for each mile from his home to the capitol and return by the nearest traveled route. Each house employs such clerks and assistants as are usually employed by Legislatures. A Congressional appropriation covers practically the entire cost of the legislative session. The appropriation is disbursed by the Governor.

The Organic Act prohibits legislation by the Legislature modifying, amending, or repealing laws of the United States relating to customs, internal revenue, postal service, game, fish and fur-seal, fur-bearing animals, insane persons, taxes on business and trade, construction and maintenance of roads, and the authority, jurisdiction or functions exercised by the judges and officers of the district court of Alaska. Numerous other limitations in legislative power also are set forth as, for example, no tax shall be imposed on the property of the United States; no divorce shall be granted by the Legislature, nor shall any divorce be granted by the courts of the Territory, unless the applicant therefor shall have resided in the Territory for two years next preceding the application; no lottery or the sale of lottery tickets shall be allowed; and no public money shall be appropriated by the Territory or any municipal corporation therein for the benefit of any sectarian, denominational or private school, or any school not under the exclusive control of the government.

Procedure in the two Houses is the same as in State Legislatures, and bills become laws by the same process. (See any standard Civics textbook).

The Governor has the power to veto any bill passed by the Legislature. He may veto any specific item or items in any bill which appropriates money for specific purposes, but must veto other bills, if at all, only as a whole. A vetoed bill may become

a law if subsequently passed by a two-thirds vote of all the members of each house. Failure of the Governor to either sign or veto a bill within three days (Sunday excepted) after it is delivered to him makes it a law. Congress has the right to disapprove, and thus render null and void, any law passed by the Territorial Legislature.

#### Judicial Department.

##### DISTRICT COURT.

District court judges are appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to preside over the district court in each of the four judicial divisions into which Alaska is divided. The appointment covers a period of four years, and until successors are appointed and qualified. District judges receive a salary of \$7,500 per annum.

Other officials connected with the judicial department who are appointed in the same manner and for the same period as district judges are four district attorneys and four United States marshals, one for each judicial division in Alaska. District attorneys receive a salary of \$5,000 per annum and United States Marshals, \$4,000 per annum.

The district judge designates the boundaries of precincts over which United States Commissioners shall have jurisdiction in certain matters, and appoints a sufficient number of these officials to properly conduct the business of the judicial division. He also appoints a clerk of the court who performs such duties as are required or authorized by law to be performed by United States district court clerks.

The Attorney-General of the United States is empowered, on recommendation of the district attorneys in the respective judicial divisions to appoint and fix the salary of one or more assistant district attorneys for each judicial division. Each United States marshal is required to appoint, subject to the approval of the Attorney-General, such deputy marshals as may be necessary for the efficient execution of the law.

##### JURISDICTION OF DISTRICT COURT.

District courts sit in a dual capacity, namely as Federal district courts and as Territorial courts, the same judge presiding over both phases of the incident jurisdiction. The district court has general jurisdiction in civil, criminal, equity and admiralty cases. It is an appellate court in the case of criminal or civil cases taken from the commissioner's court, or municipal courts on appeal. In all instances of appeal from a commissioner's or a municipal court, the case is tried anew.

An appeal may be made from the decision of the district court to the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (San Fran-

cisco) in all criminal cases and in civil cases where the amount involved or the value of subject matter in controversy is in excess of \$500. Appeals and writs of error may be taken directly from the district court to the Supreme Court of the United States in prize cases and in all cases in which a question as to the constitutionality of a law or the construction or application of the Constitution of the United States is involved.

#### COMMISSIONER'S COURT.

United States commissioners are ex-officio justices of the peace, probate judges, coroners and recorders.

As justice of the peace, the jurisdiction of the commissioner's court extends over all civil cases where the amount involved is not more than \$1,000. In criminal cases, his jurisdiction extends only to certain kinds of cases, the punishment for which cannot be greater than imprisonment in the federal jail or fine or both. The commissioner serves in the capacity of committing magistrate in the case of more serious crimes, in which capacity he determines whether there are reasonable grounds for believing the defendant guilty and, if so, binds him over to the district court to await the action of the grand jury. Appeals may be taken from the commissioner's court to the district court in all criminal cases and in civil cases where the amount involved is at least \$50 and costs.

As probate judge, the commissioner has jurisdiction in the settlement of all estates of deceased persons and to care for estates of minors and insane persons.

As coroner, the commissioner is empowered to inquire into the cause of mysterious deaths.

As recorder, the commissioner must keep a memorandum of all deeds and other instruments of writing required to be recorded or filed, and relating to the title to or transfer of property within his district. Such records are open to public inspection.

#### MUNICIPAL COURTS.

The act permitting the incorporation of municipalities provides that a municipal magistrate may be appointed by the city council. This official has jurisdiction in all actions for violation of municipal ordinances. Appeal may be taken from his judgment to the district court. By Territorial statute, municipal councils are empowered to confer upon municipal magistrates, jurisdiction in civil actions upon contract where the amount involved does not exceed \$100.

#### DELEGATE FROM ALASKA

Alaska is represented in the House of Representatives of the United States by a Delegate, who is elected by the qualified electors for a term of two years. Such delegate must at the time of

his election have been a citizen of the United States for seven years, a qualified voter in Alaska, and not less than twenty-five years of age. He receives a salary of \$7,500 per annum, and has all the powers and privileges of a member of the House of Representatives from one of the States with the exception of the fact that he has no vote, and no voice in the House except when the same is in the committee of the whole.

#### SYSTEM OF ELECTIONS.

##### Primary Elections.

A primary election for the purpose of choosing party candidates for the office of delegate to Congress and all other elective Territorial or divisional offices is held biennially throughout Alaska on the last Tuesday in April of even-numbered years. Candidates are required to file a "Declaration of Candidacy" stating the office for which they are aspirants and the party ticket on which they wish their name to appear, not less than sixty days before the date of the primary election. Official ballots and separate ballot boxes are provided for each political party.

##### General Election.

A general election for the purpose of choosing members of the Legislature, a delegate to Congress, and all other Territorial or divisional officers, is held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November in even-numbered years. Only persons duly selected at the primary election as candidates of the various parties may have their names on the official general election ballot as having party affiliation. Independent candidates may appear on the official ballot without party affiliations provided they filed declarations of candidacy on or prior to the date of the primary election. The members of the Legislature, chosen at this time, are officially accredited as such on the first Monday in March, the Attorney-General on March first, and the Delegate to Congress on March fourth following the date of the general election.

##### Qualifications of Electors.

Any citizen of the United States twenty-one years of age and over who is a bona fide resident of Alaska, and who has been such a resident continuously during the entire year immediately preceding the election, and who has been a resident of the precinct in which he or she votes for a period of thirty days next preceding the election, is a qualified elector and entitled to vote in any general or special election in Alaska.

##### System of Voting.

The Australian ballot system is employed at all elections. None but official ballots can be used by voters. The Alaska ballot

is modeled after the so-called Massachusetts ballot with the names of candidates arranged alphabetically under the title of the offices for which they are candidates.

#### **Elective Officials.**

##### **TERRITORIAL:**

Delegate to Congress.

Attorney General for Alaska. (Elected every four years only.)

##### **DIVISIONAL:**

(Elected in each division at each general election.)

##### **MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURE:**

Senator (1).

Representatives (4).

Divisional Road Commissioners (2).

#### **MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.**

##### **Incorporated Towns.**

The federal statutes provide that any community in Alaska having three hundred or more permanent inhabitants may incorporate as a municipal corporation. The statutes further provide for the election of a common council of seven members to serve for one year. The council elect one of their own members as president of the body and ex-officio mayor. Annual elections are held on the first Tuesday of April. The Territorial statutes permit of a second type of organization in which a mayor is elected by the qualified voters for a term of one year, and six councilmen for a term of two years each. The terms of the first six councilmen are so arranged that after the first election a mayor and three councilmen are elected each year. It is optional with cities as to whether or not they adopt this form of organization. Some Alaska cities are organized under the form provided by the Federal statutes and some have adopted the organization provided by Territorial law. In either event the powers of the council are identical.

##### **Powers of Common Council.**

The Common Council is empowered by Federal statute to appoint a clerk, a treasurer, an assessor, a municipal magistrate, a municipal attorney, a chief of police, and such other officers and employees as may be necessary.

They are empowered to levy and collect a general tax on real and personal property for school and municipal purposes, not to exceed two per centum of the assessed valuation of such property; to provide for the construction and maintenance of streets, alleys, sewers, wharves, sidewalks, etc.; to provide for the location and construction, for a limited distance and to a limited

extent, of trails and wagon roads outside of the limits of the town; to provide for fire protection, water supply, lights, wharfage, public health, police protection and the relief of the destitute and indigent; to levy and collect a poll tax of not less than two dollars nor more than four dollars per year on all male residents over twenty-one and under fifty years of age; to make provision for the maintenance of a municipal jail; to prohibit drunkenness, gambling, houses or places of ill fame, disorderly conduct, and the like; to pass and enforce ordinances necessary to protect and preserve the lives, the health, the safety and the well-being of the residents of the municipality; and to establish school districts, to provide school houses, and to maintain public schools therein and provide the necessary funds for schools which shall be under the supervision and control of a school board of three members.

Common councils are prohibited from issuing bonds or incurring bonded indebtedness.

The Territorial laws empower common councils to license, tax, restrain or prohibit peddling, hawking on or in the streets of the town or at any public place within the corporate limits, and to tax auctioneers, itinerant vendors and persons engaged in a temporary or transient business of vending or selling merchandise within the municipality; to establish, maintain and control lighterage plants; to establish and maintain, on authorization by the qualified electors of the municipality, public wood, coal or fuel yards; to grant franchises to public utilities corporations for a period of not to exceed twenty years, which franchises must be ratified by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the municipality; and to levy and collect a dog tax or license of not more than six dollars per year.

#### School Boards.

School boards consist of three members—a director, a treasurer, and a clerk. Members are elected for a term of three years. One member, therefore, is elected annually at each general municipal election. All money available for general school maintenance as apportioned by the city council, is expended under the direction of the school board. School buildings and sites are acquired by the common council. School boards are empowered to employ the necessary teachers and other employees, and to do everything necessary to the maintenance of a school.

#### Qualifications of Electors.

No person is entitled to vote in any municipal or school election who is not a citizen of the United States, a bona fide resident of the Territory of Alaska for one year, and of the incorporated town in which the election is held, for six months immediately preceding the date of the election.

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